

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1-56 Cancelled

57.(Currently amended) A method for global protection of objects having electronic operating components capable of receiving a radio signal, comprising: providing an object having a plurality of electronic operating components wherein each electronic operating component is essential for intended use or operation of the object, each electronic operating component is structured to receive a radio signal from an air-borne source for initiation of deactivation, and each comprises an anti-theft component to prevent operation of said object, each electronic operating component being in electronic communication with one another to enable said plurality of electronic operating components to check with each other by comparison of data to determine whether at least one of said electronic components has received a radio signal from an air-borne source; generating a radio signal from an air-borne source responsive to a theft event, said radio signal being receivable by said at least one electronic operating component of said object; receiving said radio signal by said at least one electronic operating component of said object; initiating irreversible deactivation of said object by said at least one electronic operating component following receipt of said radio signal; and causing alteration of said at least one electronic operating component and/or information of said at least one electronic operating component by said radio signal such that normal operation of the object is no longer possible.

58.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 further comprising

the intercommunication between said plurality of electronic operating components of a confirmation that a radio signal from an air-borne source has been received to initiate an irreversible deactivation of said object.

59.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 further comprising transmitting said radio signal regularly to monitor said plurality of electronic operating components and, upon failure of said radio signal to appear, generating a signal to a user to bring at least one of said plurality of electronic operating components into radio contact within a predetermined interval of time.

60.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein said radio signals are radiated in particular from one or more flying bodies, such as satellites.

61.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 60 wherein said generating of said radio signal from said one or more flying bodies is effected by a transmission signal from an emergency center or another central place.

62.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein both the transmission of said radio signal from said air-borne source and said initiating of irreversible deactivation occur immediately.

63.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein both the transmission of said radio signal from said air-borne source and said initiating of irreversible deactivation occur with a time delay.

64.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein said at least one electronic operating component capable of receiving a radio signal also contains unique identifying numbers worldwide.

65.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 64 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted once.

66.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 64 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted periodically.

67.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 58 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components is each capable of receiving a radio signal, and also contain, as a unit, unique identifying numbers worldwide.

68.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 67 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted once.

69.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 67 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted periodically.

70.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 64 wherein said unique identifying numbers are held in a database.

71.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 67 wherein said unique identifying numbers are held in a database.

72.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein said plurality of electronic components capable of receiving a radio signal are also capable of sending signals back to said air-borne source after reception of one or more identifying numbers.

73.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 72 wherein said

signals which are sent back are also used for finding the position of said object.

74.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein said radio signal includes check sums which allow transmission errors and/or counterfeits to be recognized.

75.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein authenticity of the transmission of said radio signal to said at least one electronic operating component is secured by unique codes.

76.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein the effected irreversible deactivation can be checked subsequent to the object being stolen by checking data unique to the object.

77.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein said irreversible deactivation can be effected by a regulated slow deactivation subsequent to receipt of said radio signal.

78.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein activation of said object having a plurality of electronic operating components can only be effected by replacement of all said electronic operating components.

79.(Currently amended) Apparatus for global protection of objects having electronic operating components, comprising an object having a plurality of electronic operating components, each electronic operating component being essential to the intended use or operation of the object and each being structured to be capable of receiving a radio signal from an air-borne source, and each electronic operating component being in communication with other electronic operating components to

provide confirmation to said other electronic operating components of receipt of said air-borne radio signal by at least one of said plurality of electronic components to initiate irreversible deactivation of said object.

80.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 79, wherein at least one of said plurality of electronic operating components contains resident information that, upon receipt of said radio signal, is disabled to provide irreversible deactivation of said object.

81.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein each said electronic operating component is structured to receive and evaluate a radio signal independently of one another.

82.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components are formed as a unit interconnected electronically.

83.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said unit of electronic operating components further includes decoder logic.

84.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components is integrated in a vehicle.

85.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components is integrated in a vehicle key.

86.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is integrated in a mobile telephone.

87.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is fitted in a chip card.

88.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is positioned in an electronically coded card.

89.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is positioned in a personal audio listening device.